



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6556

January Session, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-20 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall administer the
4 statutes relating to forestry and the protection of forests. [He] The
5 commissioner may employ such field and office assistants as may be
6 necessary for the execution of [his] the commissioner's duties. [He] The
7 commissioner may, from time to time, publish the forestry laws of the
8 state and other literature of general interest and practical value
9 pertaining to forestry. [He] The commissioner may enter into
10 cooperation with departments of the federal government for the
11 promotion of forest resource management and protection within the
12 state. [He] The commissioner may with the assistance of the State
13 Forester develop and administer plans for the protection and
14 management of publicly-owned woodlands. Such plans shall include,
15 but not be limited to, proposals for the establishment of forest
16 plantations and the marketing of forest products. [He] The
17 commissioner shall apply to have products from state woodlands or
18 state woodlands, as applicable, certified or licensed under one or more
19 of the following: (1) The sustainable Forestry Initiative Program, (2) the
20 American Tree Farm System, (3) the Canadian Standards Association's
21 Sustainable Management System Standards, (4) the Finnish Standard,

22 (5) the Forest Stewardship Council, (6) the Pan-European Forest
23 Certification Program, (7) the Swedish Standards, (8) the United
24 Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme or (9) the Smart Wood
25 Program as administered by the Rainforest Alliance and implement
26 any sustainable forestry practice necessary for such certification or
27 licensure. The commissioner may accept any gifts, donations or
28 bequests for the purpose of applying for and obtaining such
29 certification or licensure. The commissioner may harvest forest
30 products from woodlands owned by the state and take such other
31 measures [as he] the commissioner deems necessary for their efficient
32 management and protection, may sell wood, timber and other
33 products from any state woodlands whenever [he] the commissioner
34 deems such sales desirable and may develop recreational facilities in
35 the woodlands managed by the Department of Environmental
36 Protection. [He] The commissioner shall charge no less than ten dollars
37 per cord for any such wood or timber sold as fuel. [He] The
38 commissioner may rent state forest property and buildings thereon
39 under [his] the commissioner's jurisdiction for a period not exceeding
40 twenty-five years, provided any lease for such property and building
41 for a term of more than ten years shall be subject to the review and
42 approval of the State Properties Review Board. The proceeds of such
43 sales, rentals and any receipts resulting from management of the state
44 forests, or from reimbursements from other state departments or state
45 institutions, shall be deposited in the General Fund in accordance with
46 the provisions of section 4-32, provided the amount of annual proceeds
47 in excess of eight hundred thousand dollars, derived from the sale of
48 wood, timber and other products from state woodlands, shall be
49 deposited in the Conservation Fund, as established in section 22a-27h.
50 Expenditures incurred by the commissioner for the protection,
51 management and development of the forests, the preparation and
52 marketing of forest products and the acquisition of land for the
53 extension and completion of the state forests as provided in section 23-
54 21 shall be paid with moneys appropriated from the General Fund.
55 The provisions of this section shall not apply to land owned or
56 managed by the state on which forest resource management measures

57 may be restricted by deed, statute, or incompatible use. As used in this
58 section, woodland means land owned or managed by a state agency
59 and stocked with forest tree species not less than six hundred stems
60 per acre and at least one year old.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*